

AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM.

OMNIS FERET OMNIA TELLUS. VIRG.

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INTRODUCTION.

In presenting the public with the first number of the **AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM**, without having previously solicited or obtained a single subscriber, it may be supposed that the Editor has calculated too largely on the liberality of his friends and fellow citizens. It may be so. Still, however, he would not be discouraged. This has not been the principal source on which he has relied for support. His dependance is rather on the advantages which such a Publication promises to the community than on their liberality.

For some time past considerable exertion has been made throughout the UNITED STATES, to promote the improvement of AGRICULTURE, and to encourage and extend DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES. Nor has the exertion been without effect.—In many parts of the country the success has equalled the most sanguine expectation. By the adoption of proper modes of culture the produce of whole districts has been more than doubled—thousands of acres of waste and worn out lands have been clothed with a rich abundance—the desert has been literally changed into a fruitful field—large and profitable Manufactories of various kinds have been established, and families have found it by no means impracticable, not only, to feed, but to clothe themselves from the produce of their own farms. Such a state of things may well be consi-

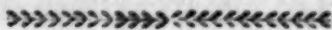
dered as a happy presage of lasting greatness and prosperity to our Country, and as laying a solid basis of real INDEPENDENCE. Yet much still remains to be done. The mass of the common Farmers are slow in changing their mode of agriculture—To dissipate their prejudices, they want information, as well as the successful example of their more enlightened neighbours. The institution of Agricultural Societies, and the distribution of Premiums for proper objects may be highly useful. When under suitable regulations and restrictions they may be expected to produce, ultimately, the most important results. But, without a free communication of ideas—without the means of diffusing correct principles—their operation must necessarily be retarded, and their influence on the community be circumscribed within narrow limits. The man of Science may have access to the books of other countries—he may be able to derive important instruction from them, by a proper selection of such articles as are applicable to the soil and climate of his own country. But such books are not within the reach of every one; and if they were, a judicious and profitable use of them could not be expected.—The common Newspapers are so engrossed by politics, and so devoted to party purposes as, in a great measure, to preclude their utility in this respect. The Magazines, Museums and other periodical Works, which have heretofore been published in this country, have embraced so wide a range, and been so appropriated to other sciences and pursuits, as to render them of little service to the Agriculturalist.

Similar observations might be made in regard to Manufactures. It has therefore been supposed that a Periodical Paper, devoted, almost exclusively, to the interests of Agriculture and Domestic Manufactures, must be useful, and can scarcely fail of support. The design of the Editor is to make the AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM, a repository of valuable information to the Farmer and Manufacturer, and the mean of a free communication of sentiment,

and general interchange of ideas on the important subjects of their occupations. In this view, it will be a convenient appendage to the *Columbian Agricultural Society*. The Constitution and proceedings of that Institution, and especially the Premiums proposed and awarded at its general meetings, will be prominent articles. The proceedings of other similar Societies in the United States, and elsewhere, will be noticed. Pains will be taken to make the best selections from the most approved Authors, Journalists and Periodical Works. Original Essays and other communications on Agriculture, on Domestic Manufactures, on the Arts, and on the productions and resources of our country in general, will be received with gratitude and attention. And whilst the interests, growth and improvement of this District, and of the adjacent States, shall not be neglected, the objects and mode of Culture, the Manufactures, the Growth, the Improvements, the Roads, the Rivers, and Canals of every state and district in the Union, will be occasionally brought into view, as far as correct information can be obtained.

Nor are the benefits to be derived from such a publication, confined to the Farmer and Manufacturer alone. They will extend to every class of the community—In a country such as ours, Commerce must draw her resources and wealth from Agriculture. The great body of the population of all flourishing Towns and Cities are Manufacturers and Artisans. The citizen therefore, as well as the countryman, will see it his interest to give every aid to a measure, which, if properly supported, promises most important advantages, both to individuals and to the nation in general.

D. W.



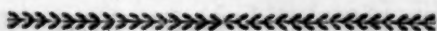
EXTRACTS *from the Introduction to the 2d Vol. of the*
BATH PAPERS.

A late ingenious Writer has justly remarked, that "Im-
provements in Tillage arise, in general, from the slow

“operation of doubting experience among men who ob-
tain their bread by the sweat of their brows, whose
minds are not sufficiently enlarged to adopt, but with re-
luctance, any deviation from the practice of their fore-
fathers, and who are fearful of risking the moderate
certainty they possess for the prospect of greater gains
which are yet unknown.”

The truth of this observation is evident ; and shews the utility of Gentlemen's forming themselves into societies, and offering premiums for the introduction of experiments, which will secure the practical farmer from loss in case of their failure. And many Members of such Societies being men of considerable landed property, have a sufficient influence to propagate the resulting advantages in their respective neighbourhoods ; and have it also in their power to make experiments, which it would perhaps be imprudent for common farmers to make at their own risk.

Such Gentlemen, therefore, as patronize establishments, of this kind, do themselves greater honour than their modesty will permit them to see in its full lustre; and are peculiarly entitled to the thanks of their country. At a very trifling expence they become the primary means of increasing the wealth and happiness of the community, who feel, through every rank and order, the beneficial effects of every improvement that tends to increase the value and the produce of our lands.



EXTRACT *from the Address of* ENOCH EDWARDS, *Esq.*
to the Philadelphia County Society, or the Promotion of
AGRICULTURE and DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES, *Feb.*
2d, 1789.

FROM CAREY'S AMERICAN

Agriculture is a profession truly honourable : venerable from its great antiquity, and dignified by the extensive and universal blessings it daily administers to mankind, It appears, from the sacred writings, to have been

in some measure, understood in the first ages, and is almost co-eval with our knowledge of the world. But the wonderful and incredible advantages we receive from it, are what we have the most reason to admire. "The art of agriculture by a regular connection and consequence, introduced and established the idea of a more permanent property in the soil, than had hitherto been received and adopted. It was clear that the earth would not produce her fruits in sufficient quantities without the assistance of tillage; but who would be at the pains of tilling it, if another might watch an opportunity to seize upon, and enjoy the product of his industry, art, and labour? Had not, therefore, a separate property in lands as well as moveables been vested in some individuals, the world must have continued a forest, and men have been mere animals of prey, which, according to some, is the genuine state of nature. Whereas (so graciously has providence interwoven our duty and our happiness together) the result of this very necessity has been the ennobling of the human species, by giving it opportunities of improving its rational faculties, as well as exerting its natural.—Necessity begat property, and in order to insure that property, recourse was had to civil society, which brought along with it a long train of inseparable concomitants; states, governments, laws, punishments, and the public exercise of religious duties. Thus connected together, it was found, that a part only of society were sufficient to provide by their manual labour for the necessary subsistence of all; and leisure was given to others to cultivate the human mind, to invent useful arts, and to lay the foundation of science."

Agriculture is that profession which promotes morality and religion. The man who labours in the field, has a constant opportunity for serious reflection; his mind enjoys a sweet and innocent repose, out of the way of difficult and dangerous temptations—he views in every routine of business, and in every day's employment, the divine dispensations of providence, and is led, as it were

by his calling, unless he shuts his eyes against the light of day to feel and express his gratitude for all the boundless mercies of heaven. He lives by fair gain, and makes no prey of others, by outwitting the unguarded; but rejoices to see his neighbours prosper. His comfort is increased with theirs, and in the midst of his rural and domestic enjoyments, his pleasing and lasting resources for happiness, are the rewards of his own industry, and the gracious liberality of his beneficent Creator.

By a successful cultivation of agriculture, innumerable are the advantages that are derived to human society. Nay, all ranks and species of created beings are affected or supported by it. Manufactures are grafted on it, as that replenishing stock, which supplies nourishment to all their different and extensive branches. It is the life of industry, and it is the soul of economy; it is that art which alone lays the foundation for a plentiful supply to the various necessities of the poor, by affording them constant employment, and exciting their industry, from which must result a consequent security to government. Few states, whose poor people are constantly employed, well fed, clothed, paid, and properly encouraged by kind treatment, are ever afflicted with discontents, insurrections or rebellions. But on the other hand, when they are depressed for want of employment, they become idle, lazy, indolent, and necessitous—and it is from the starved part of every community, that we may ever look for danger; their idleness gives time to invent, and their necessities push them forward, with a courage sharpened by despair, to perpetrate acts of the most daring criminality.

In short, in whatever country agriculture, manufactures, industry, and economy prosper, there riches, peace, morality, and happiness must prevail—They are those noble majestic pillars on which must be supported every moral and political structure—they are the vitals of commerce, the genuine parents of wealth, the social friends of virtue, and the enemies only of vice and immorality.

EXTRACTS from the ADDRESS delivered before "*the Society for the Promotion of Arts,*" on Wednesday, March 21, 1810, by the Honourable ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON, L. L. D. &c. &c.

FROM THE ALBANY REGISTER.

AGRICULTURE has, till within these few years, commanded our greatest and almost exclusive attention; not only as it supplies most of our wants, but as it forms the basis of that commerce to which we have hitherto looked, not only, for the conveniences, but, unhappily, for too many of the necessities of life. I trust, however, that the day is at hand when we shall find in our own country, without any dependence upon foreign nations, all that is essential to our support, and that you, Gentlemen, will contribute, by your personal exertions, to its arrival. No nation is truly independent, which looks abroad for articles that are essential to its existence or its defence; since their arrival may be prevented by wars, commercial restrictions and a thousand other obstructions, over which she has no control. Commerce, as the medium of wealth, and of enjoyments which add to the happiness of social life, merits our warmest support. It stimulates our industry, by affording a market for our produce, and by giving us in exchange commodities that add to our conveniences, or encrease our enjoyments. But unhappy is the nation which is compelled to rely upon it for articles of the first necessity! Should a country be placed in such a situation, as to be driven to seek its bread, by traversing half the globe, instead of raising it at home, such a country could never be secure against famine. War, a failure of crops in the state from which they were usually supplied, or more advantageous markets, might put their very existence at hazard. Clothing is not less essential to us than bread, and yet we rely for it on the precarious issue of commerce, instead of manufacturing for ourselves. It is true that we have hitherto been able to procure it in exchange for the produce of our soil; but are we sure that this will always be the case? May we not be at war with

2d. That there shall be hereafter, in every year, two general meetings of the society, to be held on the third Wednesday of May and November, at such public house or other place, in Georgetown, as may from time to time be appointed; at which meetings the members present shall

form a quorum, and be competent to do all business which may properly come before them.

3d. That the officers and agents of the society shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Standing Committee, who shall be appointed at this meeting, and at every general meeting in November hereafter.

4th. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at the general meetings of the Society, and at the meetings of the standing committee—to hold correspondence, immediately, or by means of the Secretary, with the members of the standing committee, and such other members of the society, or of other Societies, or such individuals in the United States, or elsewhere, as he may deem proper, for the purpose of obtaining and communicating information relative to the objects of the institution, and to be in all respects the organ of the Society and of the Standing Committee, except as to the collection and payment of money.

5th. The Vice President shall be ex-officio a member of the Standing Committee, and in case of the absence, death or resignation of the President, shall supply his place.

6th. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to make and preserve a record of the transactions of the Society, and of the Standing Committee; to collect, preserve, and under the direction of the Society or President and Standing Committee, pay out all subscription or other monies due to them, or subject to their control, and at every meeting of the Society, to exhibit such statement of his receipts and expenditures, as shall be to them satisfactory—and to do and perform such other matters and things, as may be directed or enjoined by the President, by the Standing Committee, or by the Society.

7. The Standing Committee shall consist of twenty members, selected from the several counties of the District of Columbia and of the adjoining States—They shall hold their first meeting on this day, and at such other times and places as they may appoint, or as they may be called to meet by the President; the number convened, not less than five, shall form a quorum—It shall be their duty, when

so convened, to determine upon, fix and make public, such premiums, under proper restrictions, as they may deem most conducive to promote the views of the Society; in the absence of the President, Vice President and Secretary, or either of them, to make a temporary appointment of a suitable person or persons in his or their place; and in general to take such measures and do such things, under the direction of the Society, as shall to them appear meet—And as individuals, it shall be their duty to pay a particular attention to the state of agriculture in their own neighborhoods, to the manner of raising and supporting stock, and to the progress of domestic manufactures; and in conjunction with such members of the Society as may reside in their vicinage, to use their endeavors to correct such errors and to introduce such improvements, in rural and domestic economy, as they may be enabled to discover from their own experience and observation, or from their correspondence and connection with the Society.

8. All premiums shall be adjudged at one of the general meetings of the Society, by a board or boards, of five members, appointed by the President and Standing Committee, from among such disinterested persons as may be present.

9. No person shall be allowed to exhibit any article for premium unless it has been raised, grown, or made in some County of this District, or of the adjoining States, in which there shall reside at least one member of this Society, or any article for which a public premium shall have previously been given.

10. No premium shall be given for any articles of manufacture, which have not been either spun or woven in the families from which they may be exhibited, and which have not been both spun and woven in this district or the adjoining states.

11. The Society will lay no claim to any article for which a premium has been awarded, but the owner or exhibiter may, immediately after the adjournment of the society on

12. The subscriptions of the members shall be paid to the Secretary, on or before the 10th day of April in each year.

The members of this Institution already amount to upwards of one hundred and thirty, and each pay ten dollars a year, to be expended in premiums.

The society held their first exhibition, at their General Meeting in Georgetown, on Wednesday the 16th of May last, when Premiums were distributed as follows.

For the best two toothed Ram Lamb.

PREMIUM 2—EIGHTY DOLLARS.

For the next best two toothed Ram Lamb.

PREMIUM 3-SIXTY DOLLARS.

For the next best two toothed Ram Lamb.

Adjudged to William Marbury, Esq. of Blue
Plains, Washington county, District of Columbia.

Best (applied to the above articles) as to quality of wool,
and quantity in proportion to carcase.

PREMIUM 4—THIRTY DOLLARS.

For the best piece of cotton cloth, proper for men's coats, or women's dresses, not less than ten yards.

Adjudged to Mrs. Martha P. Graham, of Dumfries, Prince William County Virginia.

PREMIUM 5-THIRTY DOLLARS.

For the best piece of fancy patterns for vests, not less than ten yards.

Adjudged to Mrs. Sarah M'Carty Mason, of
Hollin-Hall, Fairfax County, Virginia.

PREMIUM 6—THIRTY DOLLARS,

For the best piece of cotton cloth, suitable for pantalons or small clothes, not less than ten yards.

Adjudged to Mrs. Anna M. Mason, of Analostan Island, Washington county, District of Columbia.

PREMIUM 7—TWENTY DOLLARS,

For the best cotton counterpane, full size.

Adjudged to Mrs. Elizabeth Maynadier, of Belvoir, Ann Arundel county, Maryland.

PREMIUM 8—TEN DOLLARS,

For the best pair of cotton stockings, large size.

Adjudged to Miss Catharine Shackelford, of Culpeper county, Virginia.

PREMIUM 9—THIRTY DOLLARS,

For the best piece of hempen or flaxen sheeting, at least ten yards.

Adjudged to Mrs. Sarah Chichester, of Newington, Fairfax county, Virginia.

PREMIUM 10—THIRTY DOLLARS,

For the best piece of hempen, or flaxen shirting, not less than ten yards.

Adjudged to Mrs. Gunnell of Fairfax county, Virginia.

PREMIUM 11—THIRTY DOLLARS,

For the best piece of hempen or flaxen table linen, not less than ten yards.

Adjudged to Mrs. Anna M. Mason, of Analostan Island, as above.

PREMIUM 12—TEN DOLLARS.

For the best pair of hempen or flaxen thread stockings, full size.

Adjudged to Mrs. Dennison, of Fairfax county, Virginia.

For the best piece of twilled bagging, of hemp, flax, or cotton, at least ten yards.

Adjudged to Mrs. Sarah M'Carty Mason, of Hollin
Hall, as above.

For the best piece of bedticking, of hemp, flax, or cotton, or in part of all, or either, not less than ten yards.

Adjudged to Mrs. Sarah M'Carty Mason, aforesaid.

For shearing a Sheep in the neatest, safest, and most expeditious manner.

Adjudged to Mr. Edward Eno, of the city of Washington.



FOR THE AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM.



This valuable animal has been much neglected, and little understood in our part of the country, Virginia and Maryland, where I have only known it. The introduction of the Merinos will, it is to be hoped, do good by, at least, awakening the attention of the community to the better care of one of the best stocks we possess. I do not mean here to speak of the relative fineness of wool, but to drop a few hints as to the rearing of that estimable material. This can only be done by the due cultivation of the soil, on which it is propagated—the back of the sheep.

I have been myself, for years, in common with my neighbours, guilty of manifold omissions and neglects on this score. Having now, in some measure, corrected the procedure on my own farm, I owe it to them to give in my experience. In these States, with but few exceptions, sheep have been considered as a stock able to shift for itself, to do without care, and without food, except what

it picks from the fields, as well in winter as in summer; hence, every year, poverty and disease arising from poverty; every year a loss of lambs and a miserable pittance of dry wool half fallen off, consequent on poverty and disease; and every four or five years, infection and death by wholesale.

The following are the only three simple rules necessary to be observed, to give and to preserve fine Sheep and good wool.

Nurse your lambs when they first come into the world.

Support your sheep in good heart at all seasons while they live.

And do not suffer them to live longer than they can feed with industry and vigor.

The breeders should be put together so that the lambs may begin to drop about the 10th of February; by this time the winter is broken, and every day looks to milder weather. Early lambs are of advantage, and with care, at this season, even ninety five in an hundred may be saved. Where more than five per cent. is lost in lambs, there is neglect. With the double lambs, there may be readily raised, every year, more lambs than there are ewes—To secure this care, let it be remembered that “the eye of the master is the most sure.” At this interesting period he should see his flock, at least once a day—and the man who attends his sheep, and who must be trusty and handy, should visit them at short intervals, throughout the day, and particularly early and late, during the time of yeanning. Let there be prepared a small lot or paddock, near the common pen, and shelters. In the paddock, let there be a shed or cover of some kind to keep off rain and snow, under which fix a parcel of little pens, five or six feet square, and three feet high, no matter how rough, and in number proportioned to your stock. Ten for one hundred ewes will be enough, for the purpose of confining a ewe and lamb occasionally.

A ewe goes twenty one weeks, two or three days more or less. By having noted when the rams were put into the

flock, it may be known when to expect the first lambs. Let the ewes be narrowly observed from this time, and as their bags spring, and indicate the approach of a birth, within two or three days, (to permit which to be easily observed, as well as for cleanliness, their tails should be all short) let them be put into the yeanning paddock—To separate the ewes about to yeann, and to keep them separate from the flock for a few days after yeanning, is best at all times ; in cold weather, absolutely requisite.

The sheep is a timid foolish creature ; any one of them is with difficulty restrained from following the flock. If the ewes at this season are all left in the common pasture, when the flock moves, a ewe that may have just dropped a lamb, and particularly a first lamb, is very apt to run after them, and leave her young to freeze or to starve. Again, in the midst of a flock, it often happens that a ewe, during the first day or two, by the crowding of others, and the frequent change of position, gets confused and doubtful as to her own lamb—and presently mistakes and disowns it. It is surprising to see what degree of cold a young lamb will bear, and how thrifty it becomes, if passed safely through the first forty eight hours ; during which time, and most particularly for the first twelve hours, they are liable, if exposed to wet and cold, and if not licked and caressed by the ewe, to be frozen or starved to death. It is in this way, that nine tenths of the lambs lost do die.

In the yeanning paddock, each ewe need not remain more than four or five days after yeanning, and consequently no more than seven or eight days altogether, if carefully observed and put in at the right time. Thus it will not be crowded, and those that are there can the more readily receive the requisite care from the attendant. In open weather no care is necessary to the ewes in this paddock, but to give them access to the shed, and to feed them as the flock. If falling weather, or snow on the ground, the ewes on the eve of yeanning, should be put each in one of the pens under the shed, on a little dry

straw, and there kept with the lamb till it is two or three days old. If a ewe should not be fond of her lamb, or not own it, as it is called, confinement with it in one of those pens for a few days, will put all to rights. Particular attention should be paid to the bags of the ewes—and if found to swell and harden, as they will sometimes do, from a great flow of milk, a little before or after the lamb comes, they should be carefully drawn, once or twice a day, and brought to by a soft hand. It sometimes happens that for want of notice to this simple fact, the lamb starves and dies in sight of plenty, without being able to touch a single drop.

Instances of this have come within my own knowledge. Care should be taken to keep the tails of the lambs clean at the vent for a few days after birth, as they are apt about that time to get corked there, from the glutinous nature of the first excrements—I would recommend that the tails of all the lambs, of both sexes, be cut off within two or three inches of the root—in all for cleanliness—and as to the ewes there are additional reasons, one of which has been before given. This operation may be performed at eight days old, if mild weather, or as soon as the frost is over; at the same time the mark on the ear may be put on. As to the castration, unless in very cold or very hot weather, it is safe at any time, in skilful hands, from the age of eight days to three months, and the sooner the more safe—The lambs should be weaned at from four to five months old, at that age they can shift for themselves; and time should be given to the ewes to recruit, before they are put to propagate. As the season otherwise suits well, I make my lambs set up for Independence on the 4th July, in remembrance of our great national weaning—My overseer, who is an old Soldier of those days, says it brings good luck. I do not suffer my ewe lambs to go to the ram until they are in their second year.

(To be continued.)

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